

Response to Amendment

This action is responsive to RCE request and amendment filed on July 17, 2009.

Claims 1-15 are cancelled and claims new claims 16-35 are submitted for examination.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Heather Manwaring on July 30, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

16. (currently amended) In a computer system including a computer having a processor and memory, a method of creating a clinical reference material on a desired topic, the method comprising:

receiving a hierarchy of medical data from an author using an electronic authoring tool comprising a user interface including:

a) a master outline authoring tool, which is used by the author to create the hierarchy of medical data,

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b) a diagnostic authoring tool, which is used by the author to create the diagnosis information; and

c) a case authoring tool, which is used by the author to enter and edit the plurality of images and text,

wherein the hierarchy of medical data includes including:

a plurality of diagnoses;

a plurality of anatomical regions;

a plurality of pathologies; and

relational data describing relationships between the diagnoses, anatomical regions, and pathologies, each diagnosis defining at least one medical condition that is associated with at least one anatomical region and pathology;

storing the hierarchy of medical data in a relational database in the memory of the computer, wherein the hierarchy of medical data is organized according to the relational data;

receiving diagnosis information from the author for each of the plurality of diagnoses, wherein the diagnosis information describes general characteristics of each of the plurality of diagnoses;

storing the diagnosis information of each of the plurality of diagnoses in the relational database with the corresponding diagnosis in the plurality of diagnoses;

receiving a plurality of images and text relating to a particular case from the author, the images and text being associated with a particular diagnosis stored in the relational database;

storing the plurality of images and text relating to the particular case in the relational database such that the images and text are associated with the particular diagnosis;

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receiving a first request from a user for medical reference data on a desired topic;

retrieving the requested medical reference data from the relational database, wherein the medical reference data include at least some of the plurality of images and text, diagnosis information, and medical data related to the first request from the relational database stored in the memory of the computer;

presenting the requested medical reference data to the user in a navigable user interface, wherein the navigable user interface is presented on a display of a user computer according to the hierarchy of medical data;

receiving a second request for clinical reference material from the user via the navigable user interface, wherein the clinical reference material includes a selected subset of the medical reference data in a requested format;

reformatting the selected subset of the medical reference data received by the author into the requested format requested by the user to form the requested clinical reference material; and

sending the requested clinical reference material to the user in the requested format.

23. (currently amended) An electronic clinical reference and education system, comprising:
an electronic authoring tool comprising a user interface including:

a) a master outline authoring tool, which is used by the author to create the hierarchy of medical data,

b) a diagnostic authoring tool, which is used by the author to create the diagnosis information; and

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c) a case authoring tool, which is used by the author to enter and edit the plurality of images and text,

through which an author creates:

a hierarchy of medical reference data including:

a plurality of diagnoses;

a plurality of anatomical regions;

a plurality of pathologies; and

relational data describing relationships between the diagnosis, anatomical regions, and pathologies, each diagnosis defining at least one medical condition that is associated with at least one anatomical region and pathology;

diagnosis information for each of the plurality of diagnoses, wherein the diagnosis information describes general characteristics of each of the plurality of diagnoses;

a plurality of images and text relating to a particular case from the author, the images and text being associated with a particular diagnosis stored in a the relational database;

~~a content~~ the relational database which receives the hierarchy of medical reference data, diagnosis information, and plurality of images and text and storing the hierarchy of medical reference data, diagnosis information, and plurality of images and text in ~~a~~ the relational database in a memory, wherein the diagnosis information and plurality of images and text are stored according to the hierarchy of medical reference data so that they are associated with the corresponding diagnosis in the hierarchy of medical reference data; and

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a diagnostic reference system including a processor connected to the ~~content~~ relational database, which:

retrieves and presents the medical reference data stored in the relational ~~content~~ database in to a user connected to the reference system via a navigable user interface;

receives a request from the user for clinical reference material on a desired subset of the medical reference data in a requested format;

retrieves the requested medical reference data from the relational ~~content~~ database;

reformats the selected subset of the medical reference data received by the author into the requested format in order to form the requested clinical reference material; and

sends the requested clinical reference material to the user in the requested format.

25. (currently amended) The system of claim 23, further comprising a continuing medical education system connected to the diagnostic reference system ~~in that is capable of tracking~~ tracks the amount of time the user spends ~~browsing~~ accessing medical reference data using the navigable user interface.

26. (currently amended) The system of claim 25, wherein the continuing medical education system also includes a testing module which ~~is capable of testing~~ tests the user's user knowledge of the medical reference data that the user has accessed ~~browsed~~, storing the results of the testing, and granting the user continuing medical education credits when the user has passed the testing ~~achieved a predetermined score on the testing~~.

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27. (cancelled)

28. (currently amended) The system of claim 23, wherein the ~~content~~ relational database comprises a server connected to the Internet and wherein the electronic authoring tool and diagnostic reference system are ~~capable of connecting~~ connected to the ~~content~~ relational database via the Internet.

29. (currently amended) An electronic clinical reference and education system including a computer having a processor and memory, the system comprising:

an electronic authoring tool comprising a user interface including:

a) a master outline authoring tool, which is used by the author to create the hierarchy of medical data,

b) a diagnostic authoring tool, which is used by the author to create the diagnosis information; and

c) a case authoring tool, which is used by the author to enter and edit the plurality of images and text,

through which an author creates:

a hierarchy of medical reference data including:

a plurality of diagnoses;

a plurality of anatomical regions;

a plurality of pathologies;

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and relational data describing relationships between the diagnosis, anatomical regions, and pathologies, each diagnosis defining at least one medical condition that is associated with at least one anatomical region and pathology; diagnosis information for each of the plurality of diagnoses, wherein the diagnosis information describes general characteristics of each of the plurality of diagnoses;

a plurality of images and text relating to a particular case from the author, the images and text being associated with a particular diagnosis stored in ~~the~~ a relational database;

a relational content database including the memory which receives the hierarchy of reference data, diagnosis information, and plurality of images and text and stores the hierarchy of reference data, diagnosis information, and plurality of images and text in a relational database in the memory, wherein the diagnosis information and plurality of images and text are stored according to the hierarchy of reference data so that they are associated with the corresponding diagnosis in the hierarchy of reference data; and

a product deployment process including the processor connected to the relational content database, which:

retrieves and presents the medical reference data stored in the relational database in to a user connected to the reference system via a navigable user interface;

receives a request from the user for clinical reference material on a desired subset of the medical reference data in a requested format;

retrieves the requested medical reference data from the relational database;

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reformats the selected subset of the medical reference data received by the author into the requested format in order to form the requested clinical reference material; and sends the requested clinical reference material to the user in the requested format; a system management process ~~capable of~~ tracking a ~~user's~~ user use of the product deployment process and analyzing the ~~user's~~ user use of the product deployment process.

30. (currently amended) The electronic clinical reference and education system of claim 29, wherein the product deployment process ~~content management module~~ is further ~~capable of performing~~ performs an analysis of the plurality of reference content received ~~to~~ from the plurality of authors in order to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the reference content.

32. (cancelled)

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 16-26, 28-31 and 33-35 are allowable over the prior art of record, renumbered as claims 1-18, respectively.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

Claims 16, 23 and 29 are allowable because the best prior art of record or that encountered in searching for the invention, fails to disclose or suggest organizing an electronic clinical reference relational database comprising a hierarchy of medical data including diagnoses, anatomical regions, pathologies, and relational data describing relationships between the hierarchical medical data, and a plurality of authoring tools, one of which at least is used by an

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author to enter and edit a plurality of images and text, and reformatting a selected subset of the medical reference data into a requested format, as claimed in addition to the other claim provisions.

Regarding claims 17-22, 24-26, 28, 30, 31 and 33-35, they depend from claims 16, 23 and 29 respectively, and are therefore allowable on the same merits.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

The following Application show the state of prior art with organizing medical reference data:

USPN. 2002/0069215 of Orbanes et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARC R. FILIPCZYK whose telephone number is (571)272-4019. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mohammad Ali can be reached on 571-272-4105. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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July 31, 2009
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